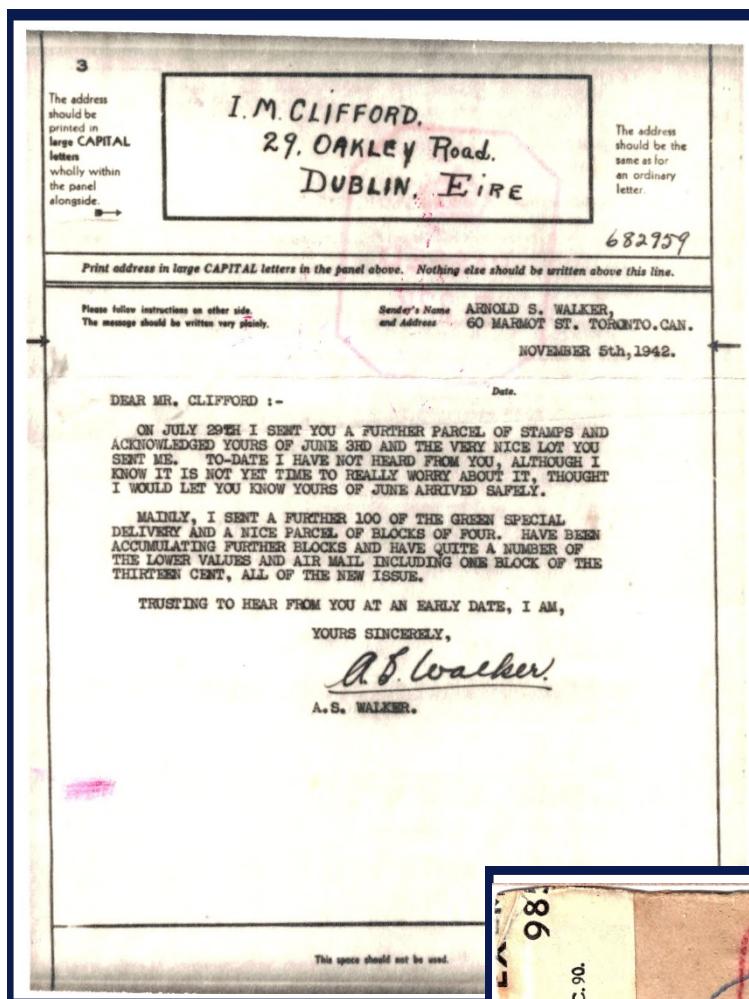


## Military Toronto –World War II – Communications and Morale - Airgraphs

Following are examples of both airgraphs and air letter sheets (to and from Toronto) designed to more rapidly facilitate communications between Home and War Fronts.



Dec 1939 – 15,000 Canadian soldiers moved to Great Britain, Dec 1940 43,000 more and by the end of 1941 a total of 127,000 members of the CASF were there. Soldiers, family and friends were frustrated by the slowness and uncertain of the mails. The answer came in the form of airgraphs (1941) and airletter sheets (1942).

The airgraph was invented in the 1930's by the Eastman Kodak Company. Canada introduced the Airgraph Service for its troops in 1941. It ensured that thousands of tons of shipping space could be reserved for war materials. Thirty-seven mail bags of ordinary mail (approximately 150,000

one page letters) could be reduced to one mail bag of airgraphs. In other terms, over two tons of mail could be reduced to forty-five pounds. Mail would be reviewed by the military censors, then photographed. Once at their destination they would be printed as shown and delivered.

